

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Rex-Cut Products Co

#### Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership

#### Rex-Cut Products Integrates Design Automation With Lean

##### Client Profile:

Rex-Cut Products is the oldest manufacturer of cotton fiber abrasive and finishing products in the world. Located in Fall River, Massachusetts, the company has been producing products including grinding wheels and mounted points since 1930. These products are used for metal removal, weld blending, deburring, and finishing of various metal surfaces. The company's three partners manage a workforce of 45 people.

##### Situation:

Rex-Cut followed the traditional manufacturing practice of producing its products in large batches. This process has historically resulted in excessive product handling and large amounts of work-in-process (WIP). It became apparent to management that waste had to be reduced and work flow had to be improved. For assistance, the company contacted the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MassMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate.

##### Solution:

MassMEP found the solution to Rex-Cut's dilemma in lean manufacturing principles. MassMEP trained the entire plant of 45 employees in the principles of lean manufacturing. Rex-Cut's employees have applied these principles to the plant's operations on the shop floor to improve the flow of product and decrease the amount of time between processes. A bottleneck in the drilling process is now being addressed with automated equipment that will improve productivity.

##### Results:

Trained all 45 employees in lean manufacturing.  
Designed automated equipment to improve productivity.  
Manufacturing equipment for installation in July 2002.

##### Testimonial:

,